

Helpful Hints

IMB 2013

Getting it done:

- Devise a system to identify to providers which children are to receive the procedure: tag chart in some manner (sticker, post-it, electronically etc.), clip priority oral health risk assessment and referral tool (PORRT) to front of chart.
- Get everyone in the office trained by those who attended the training session.
- Have a meeting to get organized for the procedure. Listen to suggestions from everyone regarding how it might best work in your office.
- Have one person coordinate the system.
- Have materials handy in the exam rooms or a central location.
- Be sure that the supplies are included in your re-supply system.
- Most providers did the procedure at well-child checks, but others did them at most any appointment when it was time to do so and the child was not too ill.
- Many practices implemented the procedure as routine in 3 – 7 days, almost all in a month.

The oral evaluation:

- Have materials ready in exam room or central location.
- Integrate into examination of the tonsils and pharynx.
- Use the PORRT form. It prompts you to look at the right things, to evaluate risk and to decide which points need to be emphasized in counseling of parent.
- For infants and very small children, try the knee-to-knee position. Visibility is improved and the parent holds the child.

The varnish application:

- All medical providers responding to the survey said that varnish application is easy to learn. Don't be intimidated.
- Parent acceptance was excellent in all practices responding to the survey.
- Have materials for application ready in the exam room. One practice sets up these materials on a plastic tray, others keep them in a plastic container.
- For children with posterior teeth, place something (folded gauze square, tongue blade) between the molars on one side while working on the other to improve access and to avoid getting bitten.
- Try a plastic finger splint on the pointer finger (under gloves) to ease apprehension.

Parent education:

- Use the risk factor information from the PORRT form to guide your counseling.
- Use the age specific free pamphlets from the National Maternal and Child Health Resource Center to key yourself and to give to the parent.

<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/order/index.htm>

